

Wenham Board of Selectmen  
Bessie Buker Multi Media Room  
January 3, 2006 ~ 7:30 PM

APPROVED BY  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
AT THEIR MEETING OF

Jan. 19, 2006

Present: Tom Tanous, Chair; Peter Hersee; Don Pickard

Also Present: Jeff Chelgren, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Secretary

Mr. Tanous opened the meeting at 7:32 PM.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 11, 2006 Special Election – THPS Project Ballot

Mr. Tanous announced that the town is holding a special election on January 11, 2006 to vote the transfer of \$1,001,000.00 to be used for the town hall renovation / new police station building project in relation to Article 7 that was passed at the October 5, 2005 Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Hersee read the motion.

Expression of Appreciation – H/W

COA Director Trudy Reed submitted a letter recognizing the volunteers of the Hamilton-Wenham Rotary Club thanking those Rotarians who drive the van one Saturday a month to the shopping malls.

Verizon Philanthropic Gift - Library

Mr. Chelgren identified that Verizon has given a \$5000 gift to the Library for programming.

Iron Rail Request for Response – Deadline January 27, 2006

Mr. Chelgren identified that the town put out a Request for Response (RFR) for the use or reuse of the buildings on the Iron Rail property, saying that the current building leases are due to end this year.

The RFR proposal was read by Mr. Hersee, who added that the town is not intending to sell the buildings but is considering options that are in the best interest of the town.

Christmas Tree Collection

Mr. Pickard announced that Christmas trees would be picked up with the regular trash.

Wireless Internet Service – H/W Library

Mr. Hersee identified that wireless internet service is now available at the library.

The BOS recognized Library Director, Jan Dempsey for her the efforts in getting the service in the library.

#### PRESENTATIONS BY GUESTS OR STAFF

Massachusetts Unsung Heroines Program

Mr. Tanous identified that Massachusetts Unsung Heroines Program is seeking to nominate a female from the community. Mr. Tanous encouraged residents to send nominations to the Town Administrator.

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Emergency Plan Implementation

Fire Chief Blanchard was present and addressed the BOS, saying that he and Police Chief Walsh are working on continuing and expanding the emergency plan, saying that the town already has a master plan and that they are improving and adding programs that will make the town self sufficient in an emergency.

He went on to describe how the Bessie Buker cafeteria wing could be used for evacuation housing. Chief Blanchard told the Selectmen that this plan would include the purchase of a generator and miscellaneous items such as beds, blankets and emergency equipment.

Chief Blanchard said that various Community groups such as Gordon College, Mullen, The Maples, and Enon Village would be invited to attend emergency planning meetings and participate in the planning. He noted that grant money is a possible resource for funding the plan.

The BOS commended both Chiefs for taking the exercise to this level.

Fire Department - Appointment of two Lieutenants

Mr. Pickard identified that the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief and Captains have completed the interviewing process and are prepared to recommend two firefighters to the positions of Lieutenant left vacant from previous advancements.

Chief Blanchard was present and identified that as a part of the restructuring of the department, there are two Lieutenants positions open, and that after interviewing many qualified candidates, they are recommending that Jack Joyce and David Raymond be appointed as Acting Lieutenants in the Wenham Fire Department.

*Mr. Pickard moved to act on the request of the Chief and his command staff and appoint Jack Joyce and David Raymond as Acting Lieutenants in the Fire Department with a temporary evaluation period for up to six months.*

*Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

Chief noted that as a part of the promotion the firefighter's helmet color changes to red and the Lieutenants were presented with their new helmets.

The BOS took a five minutes recess.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Department Ladder truck – Sale

Mr. Chelgren identified that the town has purchased a new combination pumper/ladder truck called a Quint to replace the 1975 ladder truck. He went on to say that, the ladder truck needs to be disposed of and has been put on EBay for sale, which ends on January 5, 2006 with the highest bid. Adding that there were no responses to the ad placed in the local newspaper, Chief Blanchard said it was decided to place the truck on eBay. He reported that they have received responses from all over the country, adding that currently the highest bid is \$3000.00, which is more that the town anticipated.

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*Mr. Hersee moved to declare the 1975 American LaFrance Ladder truck vehicle identification number 5VA29657OC144092 as surplus.*

*Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

*Mr. Hersee move to authorize the Town Administrator to execute all paper work necessary to sell the LaFrance ladder truck to the highest bidder.*

*Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

Bartholemew & Company- Trust Funds Investment Proposal

Mr. Hersee reviewed that two representatives from Bartholemew & Company gave a brief presentation to the BOS at the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding investments for the town's trust funds. He said after looking over the information it is his recommendation to proceed with an agreement with Bartholemew & Company.

*Mr. Hersee recommended that the BOS authorize the Town Administrator to execute an agreement with the Bartholemew & Company.*

*Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

CPA – Letter of Protest

Mr. Tanous read a letter to the town from Board of Directors of the Maples Co-op disagreeing with the town's intent to apply a single \$100,000 deduction from the property's assessed value, citing that there are 55 separate units that pay property taxes and each one should receive the deduction prior to the CPA charge.

Mr. Tanous then responded, saying that the deduction is done according to the law that the town has no jurisdiction over this and that Representative Brad Hill has been consulted and is looking into the law for possible amendments that would allow each resident to have the \$100,000 deduction off their assessed value for CPA tax purposes.

Mr. Hersee suggested that the Maples residents meet with Representative Hill and Senator Tarr.

Mr. Pickard identified that the Maples is a corporation that receives one tax bill for the property that limits their benefits, unlike condominiums that received individual tax bills.

Mr. Chelgren will attempt to arrange a meeting within the regular BOS meeting on January 17, 2006

Class II Dealers License – 21 Porter Street

Mr. Pickard acknowledged a request for a class II dealer's license for 21 Porter Street, noting that the proper paper work has been submitted.

He identified that the McDavitt Group Ltd is requesting the license to conduct sales from the residence as 21 Porter Street but that vehicles are kept at three off site locations and no cars will be stored at 21 Porter Street.

The BOS talked about their concern to avoid possible future problems and asked that legal counsel review the terms and conditions of the license.

*Mr. Pickard moved to approve the request for a class II license to the McDavitt Group Ltd with appropriate wording as determined by legal counsel.*

*Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

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Trash Disposal Contract Extension

Mr. Chelgren identified that the town's contract with Hiltz Disposal Inc is due to terminate at the end of this fiscal year, but that there is a clause in the contract to extend Hiltz's service for two years. He went on to say that, a soft RFP (request for proposal) was sent out to seek bids from market providers in the area and that Hiltz is still a more economical choice for the town, including minor modifications to the cost for gas and recycling increases.

*Mr. Hersee moved that the Town Administrator enter into the extended contracts with Hiltz Disposal Inc for two additional years.*

*Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

REPORTS

Mr. Chelgren identified that there will be a joint meeting of the BOS and the Finance Committee on Monday, January 9, 2006 for the purpose of discussing FY 07 budget recommendations.

Mr. Chelgren also identified a joint meeting on January 26, 2006 with the Hamilton & Wenham BOS, Finance Committees, and School Committee will be held to review and accept a recommendation for the Capital Management program. He went on to say that the Capital Management Advisory Committee has completed their report and will give a presentation of their report immediately followed by Verizon license contract negotiations.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Mr. Tanous identified that town department heads have received a request for their annual reports for 2005 due by January 27, 2006.

*Mr. Pickard moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Fire Union Negotiations; On-going Legal Action; and Cable Television License Negotiations and return to open session for the purpose of adjournment.*

*Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by roll call vote.*

9:07p.m. -The Selectmen returned to open session and Mr. Hersee moved to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.